

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 05613 111923Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /052 W
-----054506 111926Z /64

O R 111825Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9092
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5613

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: POVEDA STRONGLY REITERATES COMMITMENT TO RETORNO IN
NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS

REF: QUITO 5589

1. AS ANTICIPATED, ADMIRAL POVEDA TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS
AUGUST 10 NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS TO REITERATE THE UNEQUIVOCAL IN-
TENTION OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO CARRY THROUGH WITH THE
RETORNO PROCESS. HIS REMARKS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE TENOR OF
HIS AUGUST 8 STATEMENT IN BOGOTA, EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOE
GUARANTEES THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND WILL TAKE NECESSARY ACTION
TO INSURE COMPLETION OF THE ELECTION "WITHOUT UNNECESSARY
DELAY" AND TRANSFER OF POWER TO A CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT
"ELECTED IN THE SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS, STRICTLY OBSERVING
THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE PEOPLE". HE REPEATED HIS WARNING
THAT IF FIRST ROUND IRREGULARITIES ARE PROVEN, THE PERPETRATORS
WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 05613 111923Z

POVEDA ALSO DWELT ON A SUBJECT THAT IS A NOW-FAMILIAR
THEME IN HIS SPEECHES ON DOMESTIC POLITICS; POLITICAL
PARTY STRUCTURE. HE DECRIED THE WEAKNESS OF THE PRESENT
PARTY SYSTEM AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO FORM THE BROADLY-
BASED, MODERN POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH ARE CRITICAL TO
THE SUCCESS OF A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

2. MEANWHILE, LOCAL REACTION TO POVEDA'S BOGOTA STATEMENTS CONTINUES TO BE WHOLLY FAVORABLE. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS PRAISED HIM FOR SAYING THE RIGHT THING AT A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE PROCESS, IN THE WAKE OF TWO WEEKS OF RUMORS THAT THE MILITARY WOULD ABANDON THE RETORNO. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JAIME ROLDOS MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT AUGUST 9 CALLING POVEDA'S DECLARATIONS "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE" AND SUGGESTING THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL "READ THEM VERY CAREFULLY".

3. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT BOLIVAR JARRIN ON AUGUST 7, WHILE POVEDA WAS IN BOGOTA, AND WAS INTRIGUED TO DISCOVER THAT JARRIN REFLECTED THE SAME FEELING AS POVEDA ABOUT THE ELECTION. JARRIN VOLUNTEERED THE ADMISION THAT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT ROLDOS, BUCARAM, AND HURTADO, BUT THAT GOE WOULD PERSEVERE IN ITS ORIGINAL PLAN AND RESPECT THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND ROUND. AMBASSADOR CONFRONTED JARRIN SPECIFICALLY WITH RUMORS OF A PLOT TO DISCREDIT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THROUGH THE DISCOVERY OF MASS IRREGULARITIES IN THE GUAYAS VOTE, BUT JARRIN MAINTAINED THAT GOE WOULD STICK BY ITS COMMITMENT AND DELIVER POWER, HE ESTIMATED, BY MID-FEBRUARY 1979.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT POVEDA'S AUGUST 10 SPEECH AS DELIVERED REFLECTED A DECISION TO STRENGTHEN ITS REFERENCES TO RETORNO, A POSSIBILITY WE HAD INDICATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 05613 111923Z

IN REFTEL. THIS UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO THE RETORNO PROCESS IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE, WHEREAS HIS AUGUST 8 STATEMENT AND OTHER COMMENTS DISCUSSED REFTEL WERE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSUMPTION, THIS SPEECH WAS AIMED SOLELY AT THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE. WHILE THIS SPEECH ALONE WILL NOT END PLOTTING, IT ADDS TO THE CUMULATIVE PRESSURE ON BOTH THE MILITARY AND CIVILIANS TO CARRY THROUGH WITH THE ELECTIONS.

5. JARRIN'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROCESS IS RATHER MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT IN VIEW OF HIS RECORD FOR MACHIAVELLIAN MANIPULATION AND BACKING OF GENERAL DURAN ARCENTALES. HOWEVER, HE HAS BEEN PUT ON NOTICE THAT THE U.S. REMAINS SKEPTICAL AND HAS PUT HIMSELF ON RECORD WITH US AS FAVORING NO CHANGES IN THE RETORNO PLAN.
GONZALEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUITO05613
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780329-0331
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780873/aaaacjgy.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bacdf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 QUITO 5589
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1767543
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POVEDA STRONGLY REITERATES COMMITMENT TO RETORNO IN NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS
TAGS: PINT, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bacdf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014